

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 24. 1708.

IN my last I gave you some Hints at the new and mysterious Divisions in the *North of Britain*, and told you a Word or two of a new Denomination of People there, called the SQUADRONE: But before I go on to tell you much more of the Particulars of those things, shall I ask you a Question or two?

How came *Scotland* to be thus divided, and where did they learn it?

And to introduce an Answer to this Question, I cannot but tell you a short Story; There was, at the Time that the late Parliament of *Scotland* was sitting, and the great Affair of the Union was before them, a Book printed, said to be written by one Mr. *Hodges* in *England*, but sent down into

Scotland, and dispers'd there by a Party; the Book was Entitled, *The Rights and Interests of the two British Monarchies, &c.* and was wrote to prove the Union inconsistent with the Happiness of *Scotland*, by Reason of several interfering Interests; and among the rest he tells *Scotland*, what perhaps you may laugh at in *England*, but I wish it may not be found too true in one Sence, tho' I hope not in the Sence he design'd it for, *Viz.* That Sin in *Scotland* is but shamefac'd, timorous and lurking, in Comparison of what it is in *England*, and especially at *London*; and then goes on to enumerate all our Crimes in a List that has too much Truth in it.

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The Application is not so just as the Charge, tho' one Part of it will reach with Case I am upon very exactly.

1. That they (*Scotland*) can never so incorporate with *England* as to become ONE People, but they must at the same time contract a Share in the Guilt of all their provoking National Sins.

2. That these National Sins then becoming the Sins of *Scotland* as well as of *England*, *Scotland* must certainly become liable to a Share also in all the Plagues, Punishments and Judgments, that upon the continuing their Impenitency, GOD may think fit to inflict upon them.

Now, not to enter into the Author's Inferences drawn from hence to his Country Men against the Union, I must however tell you this very plainly, that we have too much tainted *Scotland* with the abominable Divisions that over-spread our own Nation, and whither it will extend, but much more where it will end, Time alone must discover.

It is but a melancholly Reflection to make, and the Prospect is full of very unhappy Particulars. 1. To look back on the debauching your new united Brethren with the Briberies, Corruptions, and horrid Variety of ill Practices, which for many Years past have ruin'd the Morals of this Nation. And, 2. To view the miserable Consequences of the Divisions, which are now beginning to be formed in that Part of the World: I must mention them apart.

1. Our infecting *Scotland* with the Divisions and Parties that have come to so great a Head among us, and particularly with their Consequences in Elections; It is bad among us in *England*, but in *Scotland* it is far worse, because the Suffrages in *Scotland* are not made by the meaner People, such as our *Yeomanry* of *England*, whom we call *Freeholders*, generally are; but by the Gentry of the whole Kingdom; few, if any in *Scotland* but the Gentry and *Lairds*, having any Vote in the Elections; nor is the Tenure of Lands the same there as here, or the Value of Freehold entitling a Man to vote the same; since by the *Scots Act* of

Parliament 1681, which determin'd the Qualifications of voting, the Person must have Land holding of the Queen of 40*s*. *Scots* Old Extent, or of 400 *l*. *Scots* present Income; either of which is equivalent at least to 25 *l*. *Sterling per Annum*, tho' generally it comes to more, 400 *l*. *Scots* being 33 *l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. *Sterling*.

Now it is manifest, that the Corruptions of Elections are of much more fatal Consequences, when introduced among Persons of Estates and Interest in their Country; whether these Corruptions are down-right plain Bribery or no; I do not say, that Bribery can so readily reach Men of Estates, as meaner Men, and I allow, it is not ordinarily so; but in the Case I am upon, the Bribery of Interest, the Bribery of the Passions in Party-Quarrels, and Personal Pique, Family-Divisions, and the like, are as fatal as any; and as they will go farther among Men of Quality and Estates, so they will last longer, and every way have more dangerous Consequences than in other Cases.

And have we infected *Scotland* with our Divisions? Let us remember we may have given them a Disease, all their Skill in State-Physick, and ours too, will be little enough to cure; It's hard, no Nation can have to do with us, but we will debauch their Morals, confound their Politicks, and set them together by the Ears, just as we are our selves.

2. And what shall we say to the Consequences of these things? Really they are bad enough every way, shall I name a few?

1. The Mouths of those that formerly exclaim'd against the Union, are kept open by it, and they have too much Cause given them to boast of being true Prophets, in that they foretold, that such a National Peace, as we promised them, is not produced by the Union; and how should we assist in the Peace and Tranquility of any Nation, that have so effectually destroy'd our own? 2. We have for ever stop't our own Mouths at the Factions and Divisions, which may follow this unhappy Temper, as being produced from our selves, and taken directly from our immediate Example. 3. We can never pretend to blame *Scotland*, let their Divisions rise up to what Height

Height they will, since upon every An-madversion we shall think fit to make upon that Head, they will immediately retort upon us, *Physicians heal your selves*. 4. All these Divisions in *Scotland*, and all the *Squadoné-War* that is raised there, is only to quallifie the Gentlemen, *when they come up here*, to look like their Neighbours, and some People say, it is nothing but a farther Testimony, that this is an incorporating Union.

As to all the wild Extremes that this new Division in *Scotland* produces, I have been

thinking sometimes to let you see a Sketch of them; but really when I consider, how much it will run back upon us in *England*, as the true Originals, how effectually it will reproach us, with having debauch'd the Politicks of *Scotland*, and what unhappy Debts of Crime we may run behind in, *that I see no Likelihood of our Repentance for*, I think, I had as good let it sleep, for Fear of Libelling my own Country, as one call'd *the True-Born-Englishman*, that is, speaking a Parcel of unhappy Truths that should too much expose you.

MISCELLANEA.

I Entertain'd you with a new Dialogue between the Author of this Paper and a mad Man, upon an Occasional Rencontre; the Story has a real Foundation in Matter of Fact, but how far, and to how much Purpose the Humour may be improv'd, Time must shew; they are now met again.

Mad Man. Well, Mr. Review, are you prepared to talk with a mad Man any more, says the Bedlamite?

Review. You pretend to be mad, and yet you talk after a Manner, that the People will say you are more Fool than mad Man, and more Knave than either.

M. Nay, I'll prove my self mad, for I'll speak Truth, and none but mad Men, you know, will speak Truth at such a Time of Day as this is.

Rev. If you speak Truths like a mad Man, the *Review* may be pinch'd for it like a sober One, therefore look to what you say.

M. I say, all the World is mad, let them disprove it that can, that's my first General; I'll descend to Particulars with them when they will; you stand calling *High-Flyers* mad, and *Jacobites* mad; and here you pick out one mad Prank, and there another; here one mad Party, and there another; but I tell you, they are all mad from one End of the World to another, and all they do has an Air of Madness in it, mad Projects, mad Parties, mad Methods, mad

War, mad Peace, mad Trade, mad Everything; I tell you they are all mad, will you come to Particulars with me?

Rev. Where will you begin?

M. Where you please, and of what you please.

Rev. Well, WAR is the Subject of Europe, you know, begin there; what have you to say to that?

M. War is a Madness of itself, and it is no Wonder to see it madly carry'd on— And what think you of the War between the S. . . . and the M. . . . out-yonder in the North, where they fight best when they see their Breath, which by the way is all the Year round?

Rev. No Names, no Names, you'll be mad indeed if you go thereabouts again; what have mad Men no Memory?

M. Let me alone for that; if Folks must not be named by their *Sir-Names*, nor their *Christian-Names*, they may be named by their *Heathen Names*, or in English by their *Actions*. Pray, what do you think, or what have you to say to making War on both sides, without giving any Quarter? Is not that making War like mad Men? Is it a War or a Butchery? Are such People in their Wits, or are they mad Men; Wild Creatures let loose by Heaven to depopulate the Creation, and send the Nations to Eternity the shortest Way?

Rev. I